

Nation's 25.5 million small businesses, many of our citizens are able to pursue their dreams of a better life.

Federal, State, and local governments can help our small business owners by creating an environment in which the American spirit flourishes, an environment that promotes innovation, risk-taking, and equal opportunity. My Administration is working for lower taxes, reasonable regulations, and a reduction of tariffs and other barriers to free trade that will increase the competitive strength of our small business sector. Education reforms also will ensure that our young people are prepared to enter the global marketplace and small businesses will have the needed pool of talent.

Many of America's entrepreneurs risk everything to make their businesses successful. They are leaders of innovation, and their efforts create a wellspring of new technology, new products, and improved business processes. One of my priorities as President is to encourage that entrepreneurial spirit, and to see that it encompasses all Americans. To that end, we have instituted the New Freedom Initiative, which includes a component to help small businesses better serve customers with disabilities and to hire more people with disabilities. Also, my Administration supports the Drug Free Workplace Program, to help small businesses develop employee education programs and company drug policies. These are examples of our commitment to the ideal that the role of our Government is not to create business barriers, but to help our citizens overcome them.

America's small business owners and their employees represent more than half of the private workforce. These entrepreneurs, who create more than 75 percent of the net new jobs nationwide and generate more than 50 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product, and the employees who work in small businesses, deserve our thanks. We salute them by observing Small Business Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 6 through 12, 2001, as Small Business Week. I urge all Americans to join in observing this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7434 of May 7, 2001

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, 2001

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

As we move into the 21st century, the United States continues to greatly benefit from the contributions of its diverse citizenry. Among those

who have influenced our country, Asian/Pacific Americans merit special recognition. Their achievements have greatly enriched our quality of life and have helped to determine the course of our Nation's future.

Many immigrants of Asian heritage came to the United States in the nineteenth century to work in the agricultural and transportation industries. Laboring under very difficult conditions, they helped construct the western half of the first transcontinental railroad. Their hard work was invaluable in linking together the East and West coasts, thus vastly expanding economic growth and development across the country. Over time, other immigrants journeyed to America from East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Asian Subcontinent. Today, Asian/Pacific Americans are one of the fastest growing segments of our population, having increased in number from fewer than 1.5 million in 1970 to approximately 10.5 million in 2000.

Asian/Pacific Americans bring to our society a rich cultural heritage representing many languages, ethnicities, and religious traditions. Whether in government, business, science, technology, or the arts, Asian/Pacific Americans have added immeasurably to the prosperity and vitality of our society. As family members, citizens, and involved members of the community, they reinforce the values and ideals that are essential to the continued well-being of our Nation.

Diversity represents one of our greatest strengths, and we must strive to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to reach their full potential. By recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans, our Nation celebrates the importance of inclusion in building a brighter future for all our citizens.

To honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 102-450, has designated the month of May each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2001, as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the contributions and history of Asian/Pacific Americans and to celebrate the role they have played in our national story.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 7435 of May 8, 2001

Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each day, law enforcement officers encounter grave risk to protect the rights and freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Their commitment and